

Welcome to the Seventh



Maricopa Association of Governments

Desert Peaks Awards Evening

June 28, 2006



Judges

The Maricopa Association of Governments wishes to thank the following people for their participation as judges for the Desert Peaks Awards. Their involvement in this process has contributed greatly to the success of the program.



Cloves Campbell, Jr.
*Publisher and Vice President
of Advertising
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Jake Long
*General Partner
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Cathy Connolly
*Former Director
League of Arizona Cities
and Towns*

Karen Wittmer
*CEO and Publisher
East Valley Tribune*



Desert Peaks Awards Evening

RECEPTION AND PROGRAM

Arizona Club

Chase Tower, 201 N. Central Avenue, Suite #3700, Phoenix

5:30 Reception

Reception and Cash Bar

6:15 Awards Presentations

Welcome

Dennis Smith, *Executive Director*,
Maricopa Association of Governments

Master of Ceremonies

Keno Hawker, *Chair*, MAG Regional Council
Mayor, City of Mesa

Recognition of Special Guests

Recognition of Sponsors and Judges

Transportation Planning Excellence Award

Robert Hollis, *Division Administrator*,
Federal Highway Administration,
Arizona Division

Desert Peaks Awards

Presenters

Public Partnership

James Cavanaugh, *Mayor*, City of Goodyear

Public-Private Partnership

Peggy Neely, *Councilmember*, City of Phoenix

Professional Service

Joan Shafer, *Mayor*, City of Surprise

Regional Partnership

Steve Berman, *Mayor*, Town of Gilbert

Regional Excellence

Mary Manross, *Mayor*, City of Scottsdale

Passing of the Gavel

Keno Hawker, *Chair*, MAG Regional Council
Mayor, City of Mesa

Public Partnership

This award is presented to the group or project that has demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through public sector or public/nonprofit partnership.

RECIPIENTS (Two recipients were selected in this category)

56th Fighter Wing Community Initiatives Team

With increasing pressure from urban development threatening Luke Air Force Base's mission of training fighter pilots, the 56th Fighter Wing Commander established the Community Initiatives Team. The multi-disciplinary team includes personnel with expertise in public relations, law, community planning and flight operations. The Team works closely with the Luke West Valley Council, which was formed to provide direct communication channels to local elected officials. The council includes 12 West Valley Mayors and representatives from Sun City, Sun City West, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, and base officials. The partnership of these two organizations has improved the process of communication with local communities regarding land use compatible with Luke operations. Their efforts have prevented further encroachment on Luke operations, allowing the base to continue to train 90 percent of the U.S. Air Force's F-16 pilots, and 50 percent of its fighter force.

Partnering agencies: City of Peoria, 56th Fighter Wing Community Initiatives Team, Luke West Valley Council.



Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project

The Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project has been almost 40 years in the making. The original concept started in a university classroom and over time became a community-inspired plan to restore part of the once-flowing Salt River from a blighted corridor into an environmental and recreational amenity for the community. Phoenix Rio Salado is a 595-acre site located between downtown Phoenix and the South Mountain Park/Preserve. Thousands of residents and many government agencies were involved in shaping and funding this urban wildlife and habitat resource, which spans five miles in length from 19th Avenue to 24th Street. For more than a decade, the Rio Salado public partnership has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers to restore native plants and wetlands. The first stretch of the Rio Salado in Phoenix was opened to the public in November 2005.

Partnering agencies: Audubon Society, Maricopa County, City of Phoenix, City of Tempe, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Valley Forward Association.



Public Partnership

Nominees

After the Scan

The West Valley Human Services Alliance took on the task of mobilizing more than 150 organizations in an effort to provide human services planning for the West Valley. These collaborative efforts involved elected officials, citizens, businesses, faith-based organizations, nonprofit agencies, West Valley Cities, Maricopa County, and state agencies. The Alliance, together with the Valley of the Sun United Way, designed a process to outline the West Valley's needs related to five initiatives: Communication and Collaboration; Health, Wellness and Safety; Education; Transportation; and Community Planning and Development. Once the reporting was finalized, the Alliance hosted the "After the Scan Summit." The summit was attended by more than 400 participants, who met in breakout sessions to introduce a plan for meeting human services needs in the West Valley.

Partnering agencies: The Cities/Towns of Avondale, Buckeye, El Mirage, Gila Bend, Glendale, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Peoria, Surprise, Tolleson, Wickenburg, and Youngtown; Arizona Department of Economic Security; Arizona Interfaith Network; Arizona State University West; Glendale Human Services Council; Maricopa County; Maricopa Association of Governments; New Life Center; Southwest Community Network; Stardust Foundation; Valley of the Sun United Way; Valley Metro; West Valley Fine Arts Council.

ASU Unlimited Access Bus Pass Program

In July 2005, Arizona State University (ASU), in conjunction with the City of Tempe and the City of Phoenix, implemented an unlimited access bus pass program for all ASU employees and students—the first of its kind in the Valley. The Unlimited Access Bus Pass program allows all eligible employees and students to ride Valley Metro bus routes for free. The goal is for employees and students to become comfortable with public transit, shaping their transportation behaviors for life. Over time, the program seeks to influence an entire generation of commuters and change the culture of the community to a more transit-oriented environment.

Partnering agencies: Arizona State University, City of Phoenix, City of Tempe.

Center for Hope

Funding from eight MAG member agencies, along with numerous other public and private donors, helped the Center for Hope open its doors in January 2005. The Center for Hope is operated by "Community Bridges," a Mesa nonprofit organization, and provides comprehensive support services for mothers and children at risk. The Center offers 24 units of transitional housing for pregnant and postpartum homeless women with medical, mental health, and behavioral issues. The Center can also house up to 32 of their children from birth to age four. The opening of the \$3.2 million, 20,000 square foot campus was the culmination of more than five years of collaborative initiatives by Community Bridges and its partners.

Partnering agencies: Community Bridges, the Cities/Towns of Chandler, Gilbert, Glendale, Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe, and Maricopa County.

City of Scottsdale's Trails Master Plan

The City of Scottsdale is situated adjacent to several other municipalities with extensive trail systems and large open space areas. Due to Scottsdale's geographic location, several regionally significant trails cross through the community, leading to a disconnected trail network. The preparation of the Trails Master Plan involved a detailed review of trail corridors, many of which connect to neighboring jurisdictions. The Trails Master Plan identifies 451 miles of unpaved multi-use trails and identifies priorities to provide for a connected trail network. The framework for the plan is based on collaboration with adjacent municipalities, regional jurisdictions, and federal agencies. Implementation of the plan will help ensure a seamless trails network through the Valley.

Partnering agencies: The Cities/Towns of Carefree, Cave Creek, Fountain Hills, Phoenix, and Scottsdale; Maricopa County; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Salt River Project (SRP); Tonto National Forest; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Public Partnership

Nominees Continued

Desert Mountain Park

Desert Mountain Park, opened in April 2005, is the first new park project in the history of the Town of Queen Creek. The community played a major role in planning the park, and major grants were received from the Heritage Fund, the Arizona Tourism and Sports Authority, and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. The park features six lighted ballfields, basketball courts, an amphitheater, picnic ramadas, playgrounds, restrooms, concessions, volleyball pits, an interpretive botanical garden with walking trails, and convenient parking for all users, including horse trailers. The park was awarded the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association's 2005 Outstanding Facility Award, and the Governor's 2005 Rural Development/Community Infrastructure/Parks and Recreation Award.

Partnering agencies: Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority, Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund, Land & Water Conservation Fund, Maricopa County Stadium District "Field of Dreams," Town of Queen Creek, Queen Creek Unified School District.

Intergovernmental Agreement—Land Information System

When the Town of Queen Creek began looking for a software package that could replace various databases used by the Building Safety Division, it found that an integrated solution was too cost-prohibitive and not customizable enough to match its processes. The Town learned that the City of Surprise had recently faced the same issues and resolved them by developing a custom software solution. The Land Information System software was designed to meet specific needs and was more affordable than current market products. Through an intergovernmental agreement, Surprise graciously granted the Town of Queen Creek use of the software at no cost. The agreement will continue to benefit both communities as the municipalities work together to continue to design enhancements to the system and to share the costs of these enhancements.

Partnering agencies: City of Surprise, Town of Queen Creek.

Tempe Youth Free Bus Pass Program

In August 2005, the City of Tempe implemented a free bus pass program for youth, the first of its kind in Arizona. The Tempe Youth Free Bus Pass Program allows students ages six to 18 who live in Tempe to ride all Valley Metro bus routes for free. The program is designed to change the transportation behaviors of students, which can reduce congestion and help to reduce air pollution. Bus boardings have increased 141 percent under the program, with about 1,900 students receiving free passes.

Partnering agency: City of Tempe.

Public-Private Partnership

This award is presented to the group or project that has demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through a public-private partnership.

RECIPIENT

TGen/IGC Headquarters

The Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) and the International Genomics Consortium (IGC) Headquarters is the result of historic collaboration between the public, educational, nonprofit

and business sectors to further the goal of greater regional economic development and diversification. In 2002, the City of Phoenix and its partners formalized proposals inviting TGen and IGC to locate their headquarters in downtown Phoenix. In 2003, construction began on the \$46 million, 175,000 gross-square-foot bioscience research facility. The project highlights the city's commitment to creating a bioscience and biotechnology industry for the city, region, and state.



Partnering agencies: Arizona Board of Regents, Arizona Chamber of Commerce, Arizona Community Foundation, Arizona Disease Research Commission, Arizona Medical Association, Arizona State University, City of Flagstaff, City of Phoenix, Chase Bank, Downtown Phoenix Partnership, Flinn Foundation, Greater Flagstaff Economic Council, Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, Greater Phoenix Economic Council, Maricopa Community Colleges, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Northern Arizona University, Phoenix Community Alliance, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center/Catholic Healthcare West, St. Luke's Health Initiatives, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Salt River Project (SRP), State of Arizona, University of Arizona, Wells Fargo Bank of Arizona.

Public-Private Partnership

Nominees

ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center

The City of Scottsdale signed a 99-year lease with the Arizona State University (ASU) Foundation to develop the ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center on the former site of Los Arcos Mall. The development of the 42-acre site is based on a new concept: it is not a traditional research park nor a traditional business park—in fact, there is no direct model in the nation for this type of relationship between a city and a university foundation. The ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center (recently renamed “SkySong”) is envisioned as a world class “assembly point” of knowledge technology business, where research interfaces with economic development, technology and innovation, and where education engages with the local community.

Partnering agencies: Arizona State University Foundation, Arizona State University, City of Scottsdale.

City of Goodyear and Four Private Developers: Preservation of Luke's Southern Departure Corridor

With 93 percent of Luke Air Force Base's Southern Departure Corridor located within the City of Goodyear, for years city leaders have been committed to preserving the mission of Luke Air Force Base and the \$1.4 billion it generates each year for Arizona. By 2005, only 45 acres in Goodyear's Southern Departure Corridor still had vested rights for residential development. But when noise contour lines were extended, 45 acres owned by Robson Properties ended up inside the high noise contours. Goodyear Mayor James Cavanaugh negotiated an agreement with Robson to rescind development rights within the corridor in exchange for higher densities outside the corridor. In other agreements, Suncor, Meritage Homes and Beazer Homes agreed to graduated density residential zoning outside the noise contours. The commitment of Goodyear and the willingness of the developers to give up future profit helped protect 3,723 acres in the Luke Southern Departure Corridor.

Partnering agencies: Beazer Homes, City of Goodyear, Meritage Homes, Robson Communities, Suncor.

Community Emergency Notification System

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the MAG 9-1-1 System and Qwest partnered to establish an emergency notification system for the MAG Region. The Community Emergency Notification System (CENS) is a computerized telephone dialing system that rapidly notifies those living or working near the scene of an emergency, providing information and emergency instructions within minutes of an incident. CENS can be a lifesaving service during critical events. It can send out up to 1,000 calls in one minute using the MAG 9-1-1 system. CENS reduces the number of emergency response personnel required to perform door-to-door notifications, enabling responders to focus on the emergency. CENS is the largest system of its kind in the United States. Since the first activation in 2003, nearly 100,000 residents have been notified of emergencies through more than 50 activations.

Partnering agencies: Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, MAG 9-1-1, Qwest.

Directions and Connections—Life Options for Mature Adults

“Directions and Connections—Life Options for Mature Adults” was a collaborative community network linking people with organizations and agencies that provide information and resources for adults aged 50 and up. Through a series of programs and services, Glendale Public Library and its partners addressed issues that had been identified through a needs assessment process. The public stressed that it desired information about retirement planning for the Baby Boomer population as well as specialized programs covering health and wellness issues, financial resources and computer technology. The three city libraries offered comprehensive programming over a seven-month period to address these needs. In all, nearly 30,000 people from around the Valley took part in the effort to “direct” and “connect” people to the right information or resource to enhance their lives.

Partnering agencies: Area Agency on Aging, Region 1; Arrowhead Community Hospital; ASU West Gerontology Department; Banner Thunderbird Medical Center; Beatitudes Center DOAR; City of Glendale; Family Service Agency; Foundation for Senior Living; Gary Tang Adult Education Center; Glendale Adult Center; Glendale Adult Day Health Care Center; Glendale Chamber of Commerce; Glendale Community College; Glendale Human Services Agency; Volunteer Center of Maricopa County; West Valley YWCA.

Public-Private Partnership

Nominees Continued

Laveen Area Conveyance Channel

With the Laveen area of Phoenix experiencing rapid growth and development, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County studied the potential for significant flood damages from 100-year and lesser storm events in central Maricopa County. Historically, flood water flowed through the middle of the Laveen area, causing flood damage. The District initiated the Laveen Area Drainage Master Plan to identify the regional flood control needed within the community, recommend strategies to minimize problems, and evaluate multi-use opportunities such as parks and trails for the surrounding community. Ideas were presented to landowners who would benefit by obtaining open space and retention credits in exchange for land donations. Individual landowners each donated a parcel of land, saving taxpayers more than \$6 million.

Partnering agencies: Capital Pacific; City of Phoenix; Elliott Homes; Flood Control District of Maricopa County; Maricopa County; Moss Dairy Farm; Salt River Project (SRP); Rogers Farms; Ronald Schlosser, landowner; Sunny Mesa, Inc.; Trimark; Mark and Frank Williams, landowners.

Livable Communities—Scottsdale Waterfront

The Scottsdale Waterfront public-private partnership maximizes the Central Arizona Canal in a way that accommodates destination attractions, trails, public amenities and mixed-use development. Growing Smarter Plus legislation allows for the designation of infill incentive districts. The City of Scottsdale and Scottsdale Waterfront LLC created a complex development agreement to redevelop the area and spur a revitalization of the downtown area. The Waterfront project encompasses more than one million square feet that will be home to the Fiesta Bowl headquarters and museum. About five acres will be dedicated to public open space, including an outdoor amphitheater, public art, and recreation paths along the canal. The project will encourage revitalization and locate economic drivers downtown, provide new energy, and create a positive sense of place.

Partnering agencies: City of Scottsdale, Scottsdale Waterfront LLC.

Long Beach Special Sister City Project

In October 2005, the City of Peoria entered into a “Special Sister City” relationship with the City of Long Beach, Mississippi—a community left devastated in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. By creating this special relationship, Peoria made a formal commitment to provide assistance, support and relief to the community. During the months that followed, the Peoria project team worked to identify what types of assistance were needed, and to identify other regional organizations willing to partner in this effort. As the project evolved, dozens of public and private sector organizations and individuals came together in support of the effort with monetary contributions, the donation of equipment and supplies, and the establishment of direct relationships with organizations in Long Beach.

Partnering agencies: City of Peoria, 70 public and private organizations.

Queen Creek Wash Project

Farmers once relied on Queen Creek Wash for its life-giving resources; it supported the staple crops of cotton, citrus and pecans and provided a valued recreational area for residents. Eventually, dams were constructed upstream and the wash ceased to flow. Earthen levees were constructed to control flood waters, but when large storms occurred, waters exceeded the banks and flooded adjacent farm fields. The wash is now being transformed again with changing land use. The need for flood protection as well as natural and recreational amenities created a need for a regional approach to the improvement of Queen Creek Wash. The Town of Queen Creek is working with Maricopa County’s Flood Control District and Department of Transportation to remove the levees and restore flow capacity. The town forged critical partnerships with landowners and developers, who donated most of the needed right-of-way for the project, to bring the plan to reality.

Partnering agencies: Emperor Estates Development, Inc., Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Lawther Family Limited Partnership, Maricopa County Department of Transportation, Queen Creek 46 Partners, Ryland Homes, Town of Queen Creek.

Public-Private Partnership

Nominees Continued

Revitalizing the McDowell Road Corridor

This project represents the City of Scottsdale's new focus on smaller revitalization projects, in which the city and its public and private partners take on a significant role in master planning to determine the type and scope of development. A key property in the revitalization of the McDowell Road Corridor encompassed a 13.5 acre site housing a former Smitty's grocery store. The vacant facility was considered an eyesore and the neighborhood had strong concerns due to vandalism, crime, and the potential for blight. Today the site is home to McDowell Village Senior Living, an independent-living, full-service rental community for active seniors. The site will include opportunities for interaction between the new senior center, a citizens' service center, a community theater, offices, retail, and senior housing. The city received a grant from the Arizona Department of Transportation to purchase vehicles for "Timmy the Trolley," a free, frequent-circulator bus route that serves the area.

Partnering agencies: Arizona Department of Transportation, City of Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

"Water—Use It Wisely Month" at Lowe's

In April 2005, a private-public partnership between 10 of MAG's member agencies and Lowe's home improvement stores was created to execute one of the most ambitious water conservation events in the state's history. The "Water—Use It Wisely Month" at Lowe's featured five weeks of ongoing water conservation information and workshops in all 14 of its Arizona stores, directed by the partnering cities. The promotion featured a radio campaign, conservation workshops, exterior entry banners, in-store signage, public address announcements, cash register and door signs, end cap displays, and informational bag stuffers. More than 30,000 color water conservation guides were distributed. The unique regional water conservation outreach effort generated a more than 500 percent return for the cities' investment, and sales of water-efficient merchandise increased an average of 30 percent.

Partnering agencies: Cities/Towns of Avondale, Chandler, Gilbert, Glendale, Mesa, Peoria, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Surprise, and Tempe; Lowe's Companies.

West Nile Virus "Fight the Bite" 2005 Campaign

The Maricopa County West Nile virus campaign was directed to reach more than three million residents of the county, with emphasis on high risk groups such as seniors and immune-compromised individuals. With an overarching goal of protecting public health, key relationships were established with private and public agencies to help disseminate information about the virus and to outline steps individuals could take to protect themselves. The campaign message was relayed through print and broadcast media, brochures, doorhangers, special events, and online outreach. The fire departments of Phoenix and Mesa assisted in distributing the campaign's informational door hangers to the public through their fire stations, while county departments worked on enforcement issues for residents with green pools. The cooperative public outreach effort was fundamental in efforts to minimize the risk of the West Nile virus for Maricopa County residents.

Partnering agencies: The Cities of Mesa, Phoenix and Scottsdale; Arizona Association of Realtors; Banner Health; Barclay Communications; Bashas'; Maricopa County; Radio Campesina KNAI; Walgreens.

Professional Service

The Professional Service Award is presented to the individual who has significantly contributed to regionalism through sustained or outstanding professional efforts.

RECIPIENT

Don Hadder, Sr., Principal Planner, City of Scottsdale

Long-time Scottsdale employee Don Hadder has served as a mentor and role model for the planning profession for almost 30 years. His work as principal planner has resulted in landmark policy and regulatory documents such as the Sensitive Lands Ordinance, Native Plant Ordinance and Sign Ordinance—all of which have provided a standard for desert protection and preservation that is emulated by other cities regionally and nationwide. Mr. Hadder has crafted a number of documents that have had long-term regional benefits, including major wash protection ordinances, trails plans, scenic corridor preservation plans and streetscape concepts. Mr. Hadder has served on the MAG Planners Stakeholders Group for the past seven years. He has also served on the Valley Forward Trails Committee, on several Growing Smarter oversight committees, and as city coordinator for joint planning efforts involving the City of Tempe, Town of Carefree, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.



Regional Partnership

This award honors local governments that have demonstrated a commitment to regionalism through cooperative efforts.

RECIPIENT

Chandler/Tempe Borderless WiFi Network

The City of Chandler and the City of Tempe worked cooperatively on the adoption and construction of a Wireless Fidelity (WiFi) network to provide for wireless broadband and telephony services to their communities. On one level, the network provides seamless connectivity to the Internet for Chandler and Tempe residents, businesses, students and members of the academic community. On another level, a private municipal wireless network is provided to benefit city operations in a way that minimizes the use of public funds and improves its capabilities for wireless business services, such as real-time inspections and the use of WiFi technology to maintain surveillance of high profile events for the public's safety. The network was made possible because Tempe allowed Chandler to model an agreement that would mirror its own, saving valuable time and money. The agreement creates a 110-square mile contiguous network, the largest such network in the country.

Partnering agencies: City of Chandler, City of Tempe.



Regional Partnership

Nominees

Avondale Civic Center Library–Regional Partnership

Due to fast growth and high citizen demand, the City of Avondale and Maricopa County began negotiating the development of a Regional Library in early 2002. Under the agreement, the city will spend \$6.1 million to construct the Avondale Civic Center Library, while the Maricopa County Library District will share in the operating costs of the facility for the first five years. The collaborative effort will create a state-of-the-art library institution with the latest technology, books, and programming, with the ultimate goal of promoting library usage throughout the region. The facility will serve not only Avondale, but provide additional library resources to the surrounding communities of Goodyear, Tolleson, Phoenix, Buckeye and Litchfield Park.

Partnering agencies: City of Avondale, Maricopa County Library District.

Fountain Hills/Fort McDowell “Take a Peak” Campaign

The communities of Fountain Hills and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation joined forces in an innovative marketing partnership to promote the area as an exciting destination for visitors and a great location in which to live. The partnership started five years ago when civic-minded volunteers began the Fountain Hills Tourism Council. The partners wanted to use the majestic mountains surrounding the communities to provide the backdrop for a strong sense of place and identity. Focusing on the breathtaking scenery of the area, the ads included visuals of Four Peaks and Red Mountain and the marketing message, “Take a Peak.”

Partnering agencies: Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Town of Fountain Hills.

Regional Transit Maintenance Facility

The City of Scottsdale and the City of Tempe have collaborated throughout the years on transit and transportation issues affecting each community. Over the last four years, the municipalities have combined their efforts to create a Regional Transit Maintenance Facility, working with members of Congress to secure \$20 million in federal funding and working with the Regional Public Transportation Authority and the Maricopa Association of Governments to secure Proposition 400 funding. The \$49 million, 250-bus operations and maintenance facility will help meet the needs of the East Valley as it continues to improve and expand transit services.

Partnering agencies: City of Scottsdale, City of Tempe.

Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities (STORM)

The STORM program was formed to provide stormwater education and outreach in response to federal regulations governing storm drain pollutants. Each municipality that chooses to participate is assessed a fee based on population. The success of STORM is based on pooling the resources, ideas, funds and talents of agencies to produce a regional outreach program. In 2005, STORM had 22 members. Efforts included creating a Web site in English and Spanish, broadcasting annual public service announcements on the radio, purchasing educational display boards for public events, and promoting the unified message, “Only Rain in the Storm Drain,” across jurisdictional boundaries.

Partnering agencies: The Cities/Towns of Apache Junction, Avondale, Chandler, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Glendale, Goodyear, Guadalupe, Litchfield Park, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Peoria, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Surprise, Tempe, Tolleson, and Youngtown; Arizona Department of Transportation; Maricopa County; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Regional Excellence

The Regional Excellence award is presented to the single individual who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to the spirit of regionalism.

RECIPIENTS (Two recipients were selected in this category)

The Honorable Wendy Feldman-Kerr

Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Mayor of the Town of Queen Creek from 2000-2006, has displayed exemplary leadership not only at the local level, but at the regional level as well. As Chair of the MAG Regional Council from 2002 to 2004, Mayor Feldman-Kerr led the organization through a period of great transition. She was a member of the MAG Governance Task Force, where she championed business participation in the transportation planning process that led to the inclusive structure of the Transportation Policy Committee. Mayor Feldman-Kerr staunchly supported Proposition 400, which laid the foundation for transportation improvements in the MAG Region for the next 20 years. She promoted greater citizen involvement through the implementation of the first Regional Town Hall, and focused on increasing communication among member agencies. Mayor Feldman-Kerr began her service in Queen Creek after being appointed to the Town Council in 1994, and served three terms as Mayor. In addition, Mayor Feldman-Kerr has served on the Regional Arts Task Force, and served as Chair of the Williams Gateway Airport Authority.



The Honorable John Keegan

Peoria Mayor John Keegan has been a leader in promoting and protecting one of Maricopa County's most important resources—Luke Air Force Base. He has worked diligently at the federal, state and local levels to spare Luke from the base closure list. He worked with Arizona's congressional delegation to secure \$20 million in federal funding for land acquisition to buffer Luke and its flight corridors from encroachment. Mayor Keegan was elected Mayor of Peoria in 1997 and reelected in 1999 and 2003. Mayor Keegan recently retired with the rank of Commander from the U.S. Naval Reserve after 27 years of service in both the U.S. Army and the Naval Reserve. He served two terms in the Arizona House of Representatives. Mayor Keegan serves as Vice President of Operations for the Boy Scouts of America Grand Canyon Council and has served on a number of boards and commissions, including the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Commission, the Morrison Institute, and the Greater Phoenix Economic Council. He has been recognized with the Champion of Decency Award from the American Families for Decency, and in 2000, he was awarded the Arizona Planning Association's Distinguished Leadership Award. In 2001, he received the Maricopa Association of Governments' Distinguished Service Award.



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